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UUM seeks duty-free zone status

Adib Povera

SINTOK: Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) plans to turn its main campus here into a shopping destination for tourists.

The university will be submitting an application to the Federal Government to obtain duty-free zone status for its 1,061ha campus soon.

This is one of the four strategies under the university's transformation plan to make UUM a world-class management university by 2020.

Vice-chancellor Prof Dr Mohamed Mustafa Ishak said UUM would leverage on the duty-free zone status to

generate income, besides enabling the university to be less dependant on funds from the government.

"Our location is strategic for such a status as the main campus is about 8km from the Malaysia-Thailand border.

"We are targeting to turn the university's main campus here into a duty-free zone by end of the year, pending approval from the government," he said after launching the plan here yesterday.

Earlier, he delivered his New Year message to the varsity staff and students.

On the university's transformation plan, Mustafa said the 10-year

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vice-chancellor
Universiti Utara Malaysia

roadmap would be carried out in two phases.

"The first phase will see UUM working towards becoming a research university in management and social science over the next five years.

"After making our mark at the national level, we will pursue our long-term goal of becoming a world-class management university in the second phase."

He said under the first phase, the university also intended to increase the number of doctorate graduates as well as foreign students from 10 to 30 per cent.